

Dr.W.Heumann
Botanisches Institut
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Braunschweig, Jan.24th 1956
Humboldtstrasse 1

Professor Dr.Joshua Lederberg
University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Department of Genetics
Madison 6 / Wisc.-U.S.A.

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I thank you very much for your letter of the 7th inst. and for the cultures W-6 and W-1177 you sent me. I shall test these strains with my own methods to find out if morphologic-cytological signs of a sexual process are to be noticed in mixed cultures.

In the meantime I have realized that the subcultures of my bacterial strain B₈ are contaminated. Therefore I ask you, to leave B₈ out and to test only the strains B₄, B₆ and H₄₃.

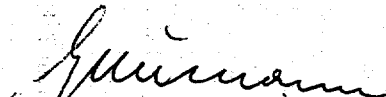
I beg to thank you also for your proposal to bring me into touch with Professor WILSON, thus enabling me to resume my investigations on nitrogen fixation by rhizobia in vitro whilst staying in your laboratory. The problem of nitrogen fixation is highly interesting, though extraordinary difficult. I had to interrupt my investigations as it was impossible to manage without any assistance.

My application for a scholarship at your laboratory has been sent in to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (address: Bad Godesberg b.Bonn, Frankengraben 40). You would greatly oblige me by supporting this application. It would be advisable to state in your letter 1. that you think it essential to test my morphologic-cytological statements on the sexual process of star-forming bacteria by your genetic methods, 2. that these investigations will take one year's time, and 3. that no salary is paid there.

As soon as I shall have learnt, if the scholarship has been granted and to what amount, I shall apply as well to the United States Educational Commission in the Federal Republic of Germany (Fulbright Commission) and -if necessary- also to the Rockefeller Foundation.

Thanking you in advance for your help, I am,

very sincerely yours,


(Dr.W. Heumann)